

VIRTUAL AND CONDENSED TELEVISION PROGRAMS

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ABSTRACT

Video content is provided from a video source, and an attribute identifying the subject of a selected segment of the video content is identified. The attribute is coded into a metadata tag that is associated with the selected segment of the video content. The selected video segment and the associated metadata tag are then transmitted or stored for later transmission. At the client end, the selected video content portion and the associated metadata tag are received. A show flow engine uses the attribute information in the metadata tag to create a script that is used by a rendering engine to output video to a viewer. One output format is a compressed version of at least a portion of a long program. Another output format is a "virtual television program" that is assembled using preselected viewer preferences. In some instances the output content of the virtual program is modified by the viewer in real time.